Illinois Health Information Exchange

Frequently Asked Questions

For Illinois Providers and Professionals

What is Health Information Technology?

Over the past 20 years, there has been a major change due to computers and electronic technology. Areas such as banking, shopping and the news have long ago adopted e technology. Until now, the field of healthcare has largely not used this technology, which is sometimes called health IT

What is Health Information Exchange?

Today, most providers write patient medical information on paper charts which are not easily available and are hard to share with their patients and with other care providers. Health Information Exchange (HIE) is when a healthcare provider such as a doctor's office, specialist, hospital, clinic or lab share patient health records electronically through a secure network.

What are the Benefits of Health Information Exchange?

When fully functional and exchangeable, electronic health records can provide more than what paper records can deliver, including:

Improved Treatment Outcomes

Patients receive better care if providers have access to complete information. It can also improve diagnostics and reduce or prevent medical errors.

Improved Coordination of Care

Better integration, organization and sharing of patient health records among all providers involved in a patient's care will ensure that each specialist has the same accurate and up-to-date information about a patient; ultimately leading to better treatment and care outcomes.

Improved Efficiency in Practices

Improved integrated scheduling that links appointments to progress notes, automated coding, claims management, improved communication with labs, and health plans, formulary checks etc. can all provide efficiencies and cost savings

Strengthens Health Information Technology

Electronic Health Record systems interface with a provider's existing technology and will adapt to future expanded technology.

Increases Patient Collaboration

Shared access to electronic records can create a more collaborative and informed patient. This is especially important in the management and treatment of chronic conditions. It can also provide patients with follow up care, information links, and the exchange of emails between providers and patients.

Fewer Forms for Patients to Fill Out

Provider access to patient health records will reduce the need for patients to fill out duplicate information when visiting various health services.

Access to Stimulus Funds and Other Incentives

Helps maximize provider access to funding for the adoption of Health Information Technology and the demonstration of meaningful use.

What is Meaningful Use?

Meaningful Use is part of a coordinated set of regulations established to help create a private and secure electronic health information exchange system. To become "Meaningful Users" providers need to demonstrate they're using certified electronic health records technology in ways that can be measured in quantity and in quality. For more information visit: https://www.cms.gov/ehrincentiveprograms/30_Meaningful_Use.asp

Are There Provider Incentive Programs?

The Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Record Incentive programs provide incentive payments to eligible professionals, hospitals and critical access hospitals as they adopt, implement, upgrade or demonstrate meaningful use of certified technology in their first year of participation and demonstrate meaningful use for up to five remaining participation years. Registration for both the Medicare and Medicaid programs are now open. For information and to register for Medicare incentive payments visit: https://www.cms.gov/ehrincentiveprograms/20_RegistrationandAttestation.asp, For more information and to register for Medicaid incentive payments visit: http://www.hfs.illinois.gov/ehr/.

Te learn more about which electronic systems and modules are certified for the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Records Incentive Programs, visit http://healthit.hhs.gov/

What is ILHIE Direct Messaging?

The ILHIE Direct Messaging service (Offered at <u>no cost</u> December 2011 throughout 2012) will help providers to achieve the key Stage 1 requirements for Meaningful Use for exchange, and provide an easy "on-ramp" for a wide set of providers and organizations looking to adopt. It offers a secure, scalable, standards-based method of sending encrypted health information directly to known, trusted recipients. For more information contact us at hfs.hie@illinois.gov, or call 1-312-814-1600.

What are Regional Extension Centers?

To assist providers in implementing and becoming "Meaningful Users" of electronic health records, two Illinois Regional Extension Centers provide outreach and support services to health care providers. For more information about implementation, contact the extension Centers at these addresses: For Statewide Providers: www.ilhitrec.org, For Chicago Providers: www.chitrec.org/

What About Privacy and Security?

The same Federal health information privacy protections that apply to paper records also apply to electronic health records.

In accordance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (HIPAA), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) has set forth standards for protecting the privacy and security of certain health information, whether it is stored on paper or electronically. The HIPAA Privacy Rule (http://www.healthit.gov/providers-professionals/limits-using-patient-information) provides Federal protections for individually identifiable health information, sometimes referred to as "protected health information". The Privacy Rule protects paper, electronic, and oral information. The Security Rule applies only to information maintained in electronic form. This includes information in electronic health records.
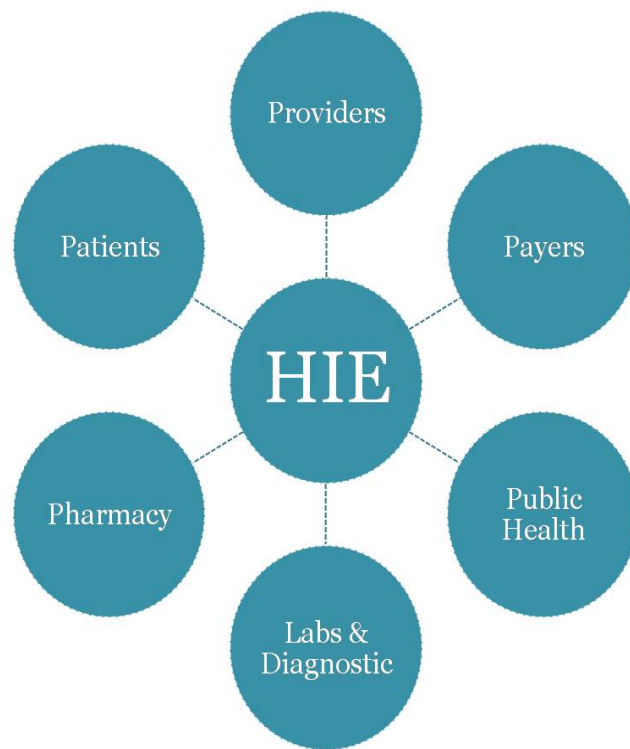
What is E-Prescribing?

E-prescribing is an electronic way to generate prescriptions through an automated data-entry process utilizing e-prescribing software and a transmission network which links to participating pharmacies.

E-prescribing has been described as the solution to improved patient safety and reducing medication costs. It is estimated that approximately 7,000 deaths occur

each year in the United States due to medication errors. These errors are predominately due to hand-writing illegibility, wrong dosing, missed drug-drug or drug-allergy reactions. With approximately 3 billion prescriptions written annually, which constitutes one of the largest paper-based processes in the United States, the writing of prescriptions can be streamlined and efficient by using an e-prescribing system.

Current and Future Services

At-a-Glance

For more information visit www.hie.illinois.gov/